

enhance delivery of sheep red blood cells to the processing pathway of murine antigen-presenting cells anticipates the subject matter of the rejected claims.

Claim 7 has been objected to as depending upon a rejected claim.

The examiner has requested that Applicants review the specification and claims for minor errors, and amend the application as needed to correct any errors that are found.

The foregoing constitute all issues currently outstanding in the present application.

Amendments to the specification and claims:

The specification has been amended to set forth the priority claim of the present application and to correct minor errors in the specification, as requested by the examiner.

Claims 18-24 have been formally canceled, as mentioned above.

Claim 1 has been amended to change the term “functionally linked” to “covalently linked”. Support for this amendment may be found throughout the specification, and particularly at page 26, lines 32-36 and at page 38, line 38 - page 39, line 8. It is believed that the amendment to claim 1 overcomes the rejection of claims 1-6 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. It is now clear from the claim that the adjuvant and the immunogen are physically linked by a covalent linkage. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

In addition, the rejection of claims 1-6, 10-11, 13, 14, 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) based on Goodman et al. is no longer applicable to the claims as presently amended. Claim 1 and claims dependent therefrom now call for a composition wherein an immunogen is covalently linked to an adjuvant. Such a composition is not disclosed by Goodman et al.; therefore, Goodman et al. cannot be said to anticipate the invention as presently claimed. Accordingly, Applicants also respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

If claims 1-6 are now allowable, claim 7 should no longer be objected to as dependent on a rejected claim. Applicants therefore request withdrawal of this objection.


Conclusion:

In view of the amendments presented herewith and the foregoing remarks, Applicants submit that the specification and claims as presently amended have overcome all objections and rejections set forth in the January 6, 2000 Official Action, and that the claims are in condition for allowance. Applicants therefore respectfully urge withdrawal of those objections and rejections, and that this application be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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